

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

TIMOTHY KING, et.al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 20-cv-13134
Hon. Linda V. Parker

GRETCHEN WHITMER, in her official capacity
as Governor of the State of Michigan, *et.al.*,
Defendants,

and

ROBERT DAVIS,
Intervenor Defendant.

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**INTERVENOR DEFENDANT ROBERT DAVIS' EMERGENCY
MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFFS' PURPORTED AMENDED
COMPLAINT (ECF NO. 6).**

NOW COMES, INTERVENOR DEFENDANT ROBERT DAVIS (hereinafter “Intervenor Defendant Davis”), by and through his attorney, ANDREW A. PATERSON, and for his Emergency Motion to Strike Plaintiffs’ Purported Amended Complaint (ECF No. 6), states the following:

I. Concurrence

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1, prior to filing the instant motion, counsel for Intervenor Defendant Davis sought concurrence from Plaintiffs’ counsel, but concurrence was denied, necessitating the filing of this motion.

II. Necessity for Immediate Consideration

It is necessary for the Court to expedite the briefing and adjudication of the instant motion because currently pending before the Court is Plaintiffs’ emergency motion for temporary restraining order (ECF No. 7), which is based **solely** on the facts as pled and alleged in Plaintiffs’ amended complaint (ECF No. 6). (See Plaintiffs’ Motion for TRO, ECF No. 7, PageID. 1832)¹. This is so because as this Court is

¹ Plaintiffs’ motion for TRO (ECF No. 7) states the following: “The facts relevant to this motion are set forth in the November 29, 2020 amended

aware, “[a]n amended complaint supersedes an earlier complaint for all purposes.” *In re Refrigerant Compressors Antitrust Litigation*, 731 F.3d 586, 589 (6th Cir.2013); see also *Pacific Bell Telephone Co. v. Linkline Commc’ns, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 438, 456 n. 4, 129 S.Ct. 1109, 172 L.Ed.2d 836 (2009). Thus, if the Court grants Intervenor Defendant Davis’ instant motion and determines that Plaintiffs’ amended complaint (ECF No. 6) was not properly filed in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1),(2), Plaintiffs’ pending motion for TRO (ECF No. 7) would be rendered *moot*.² Thus, expedited consideration is warranted.

III. Introduction

On November 25, 2020, Plaintiffs filed a five-count, 75-page complaint against Defendants Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and the State Board of Canvassers. (ECF No. 1). Then on November 27, 2020, without obtaining special leave from this Court or permission from the Defendants, Plaintiffs unilaterally

complaint (“Complaint”) filed in the above-captioned proceeding, and its accompanying exhibits, filed concurrently with this motion, all of which are respectfully incorporated herein by reference. We present only a summary.” (ECF No. 7, PageID. 1832).

² Intervenor Defendant Davis will also be filing an emergency motion to strike Plaintiffs’ pending motion for TRO (ECF No. 7).

filed what purports to be an 86-page amended complaint (ECF No. 6).

On November 30, 2020, Intervenor Defendant Davis filed an emergency motion to intervene as a party defendant. (ECF No. 12). On December 2, 2020, this Court entered an order granting Intervenor Defendant Davis' emergency motion to intervene [12] along with granting the City of Detroit's [5] and the Democratic National Committee's and Michigan Democratic Party's [14] respective motions to intervene. (See Order, ECF No. 28).

IV. Law and Legal Analysis

A. Plaintiffs' Purported Amended Complaint (ECF No. 6) MUST Be Stricken because It Was NOT Properly Filed In Accordance With Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a).

Rule 15 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure governs the filing of amended complaints and provides, in pertinent part:

(a) Amendments Before Trial.

(1) Amending as a Matter of Course. A party may amend its pleading once as a matter of course within:

(A) 21 days after serving it, or

(B) if the pleading is one to which a responsive pleading is required, 21 days after service of a responsive pleading or 21 days after service of a motion under Rule 12(b), (e), or (f), whichever is earlier.

(2) Other Amendments. *In all other cases, a party may amend its pleading only with the opposing party's written consent or the court's leave.* The court should freely give leave when justice so requires.

FED. R. CIV. P. 15(a)(1),(2) (emphasis added).

The plain and unambiguous language of Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1) is clear: Plaintiffs may file an amended complaint (1) *after* their original complaint has been served and (2) within Rule 15's provisions for amendments for "amending as a matter of course." Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(1). To be clear, "[a] party may amend its pleading once as a matter of course within: (A) *21 days after serving it, or* (B) if the pleading is one to which a responsive pleading is required, *21 days after service of a responsive pleading or 21 days after service of a motion under Rule 12(b), (e), or (f)*, whichever is earlier." Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(1) (emphasis supplied).

Here, it is clearly evident from the record that Plaintiffs' "amended" complaint (ECF No. 6), which was filed **on November 27, 2020**, was **NOT** properly filed in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1). As noted, **on November 25, 2020**, Plaintiffs filed their original complaint (ECF No. 1). However, Plaintiffs did **not** serve the summons

and original complaint on the Defendants **prior** to filing their “amended” complaint (ECF No. 6) **on November 27th**. Rather, Plaintiffs improperly filed their “amended” complaint (ECF No. 6) **prior** to serving the summons and original complaint (ECF No. 1) on the Defendants. As the Court may recall, on December 1, 2020, the Court entered a “text-only” order requiring the Plaintiffs to inform the Court once “proper service has been effectuated” on the Defendants. Later that same day, Plaintiffs’ counsel filed executed return of service forms, which indicated that **all** of the Defendants were properly served with a summons and a copy of the *original* complaint (ECF No. 1) **on December 1, 2020**. (See Executed Return of Service, ECF No. 21, PageID. 2109-2114). Thus, pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1), Plaintiffs had a right to file an amended complaint once as a matter of course 21 days **after** properly serving the summons and original complaint [1] on the Defendants, but **not before**. Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1).

Here, Plaintiffs clearly put the “cart before the horse”. Plaintiffs filed their “amended” complaint (ECF No. 6) **on November 27, 2020**, which was **prior** to the December 1st date the Plaintiffs served the Defendants with summons and original complaint [1]. (See Executed

Return of Service, ECF No. 21, PageID. 2109-2114). Moreover, Plaintiffs’ “amended” complaint (ECF No. 6) was also filed **prior** to any responsive pleadings and/or motions under Rules 12(b), (e), or (f) being filed by the Defendants. See Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1).

Thus, because Plaintiffs failed to comply with the requirements set forth under Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1), the only way Plaintiffs could have filed their “amended” complaint (ECF No. 6) is if they received written consent from the Defendants or obtained leave from the Court. *See* Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(2). Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(2) provides, in relevant part:” ***In all other cases, a party may amend its pleading only with the opposing party's written consent or the court's leave.***” (emphasis supplied). However, the record clearly reflects that neither occurred. Prior to filing their “amended” complaint on November 27, 2020 (ECF No. 6), the Plaintiffs did **not** obtain written consent from the Defendants nor did the Plaintiffs properly seek or obtain leave from the Court. Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(2).

Accordingly, because Plaintiffs’ “amended” complaint (ECF No. 6) was NOT properly filed in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1),(2), it MUST be stricken by the Court.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Intervenor Defendant Robert Davis prays that this Honorable Court GRANT his Emergency Motion to Strike Plaintiffs' Amended Complaint (ECF No. 6) because it was not properly filed in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1),(2).

Dated: December 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ ANDREW A. PATERSON
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, ANDREW A. PATERSON, certify that forgoing document(s) was filed and served via the Court's electronic case filing and noticing system (ECF) this 3rd day of December, 2020, which will automatically send notification of such filing to all attorneys and parties of record registered electronically.

Dated: December 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ ANDREW A. PATERSON
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